

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:XVUNOVIC:SC

APPROVED BY IO:ROBLAKE

S/S:O P. P. SARROS

NEA:MR. SOBER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226048

TOSEC 170, ZFF JERUSALEM ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: EXPLANATION OF VOTE BEFORE THE VOTE ON RESOLUTION

INVITING PLO TO PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE ON

PALESTINE

REF: USUN 4031

FROM BUFFUM AND SOBER TO SISCO AND ATHERTON

FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED EXPLANATION OF VOTE WHICH US REP  
WOULD MAKE BEFORE VOTE:

BEGIN TEXT. MR. PRESIDENT: IN PARTICIPATING IN A  
CONSENSUS DECISION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO INSCRIBE  
THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE IN THIS SESSION'S AGENDA, THE  
U.S. ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS POSITION THAT THE  
LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE MUST BE  
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS.  
AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE VITAL STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATING  
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PROCESS ON THE BASIS OF SC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 CONTINUES. SECRETARY KISSINGER IS PRESENTLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHERE HE IS CONSULTING WITH THE PARTIES ON MANY OUTSTANDING ISSUES INCLUDING THE IMPLICATIONS OF A RESOLUTION SUCH AS THE ONE BEFORE US FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE U.S. OPPOSES THIS RESOLUTION--NOT BECAUSE WE WOULD DENY THE OPPORTUNITY TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WHICH HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PALESTINIAN DEBATE-- BUT BECAUSE OF ASSUMPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS THAT IT SEEKS TO ESTABLISH WHICH MIGHT DAMAGE RATHER THAN CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS. WE OPPOSE IN PARTICULAR THE REFERENCE IN THE RESOLUTION TO THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. SEVERAL ENTITIES CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE A CONSENSUS ON THIS SUBJECT AMONG ALL THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION, AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR ITS VIEWS IN AN APPROPRIATE FORUM, AS WE HAVE HEARD STATEMENTS BY THE PLO AND OTHER PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS OVER A SERIES OF YEARS DURING THE CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNRWA ITEM. HOWEVER, AN INVITATION TO THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELIBERATIONS IN PLENARY MEETINGS WOULD ESTABLISH, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT OF PERMITTING REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS TO SPEAK IN THE ASSEMBLY'S HIGHEST FORUM. THE UNITED NATIONS WAS ESTABLISHED TO FUNCTION PRIMARILY AS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION. THIS PRECEDENT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS IN OPENING THE PLENARY TO SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS NOT REPRESENTING MEMBER STATES. IN OUR VIEW MEMBER STATES AND ONLY MEMBER STATES SHOULD ADDRESS THE PLENARY SESSION OF THIS ASSEMBLY. MANY REPRESENT ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE VIEWS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. EFFECTIVE PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO ENABLE THEM TO DO SO IN OTHER PLACES THAN IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PLENARY SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY. SPECIFICALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, IN THE CASE OF LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES WHICH ENABLE THEM TO BE HEARD WITHOUT A VOTE IN DELIBERATIONS ON ITEMS WHICH DIRECTLY CONCERN THEM. MOST RECENTLY, IN ORDER TO AVOID ESTABLISHING THE UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT WE HAVE DESCRIBED, THE GENERAL

ASSEMBLY AGREED TO A PROCEDURE FOR HEARING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY IN COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING CYPRUS DEBATE ALTHOUGH THE AGENDA ITEM WAS ALLOCATED TO PLENARY.

FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, THE UNITED STATES WILL VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION BEFORE US AND APPEALS TO ALL UNITED NATIONS MEMBERS, AND PARTICULARLY THE PARTIES TO THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE, TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE

ADVERSE EFFECTS THAT ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION COULD HAVE BOTH ON THE FUTURE PROGRESS OF THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS AND THE VIABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS AN INSTITUTION REPRESENTING, FIRST AND FOREMOST MEMBER STATES. END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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